



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

July 13, 2010

REVISED

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

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Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH THE WORKER
EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER, INC.
(ALL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

Gail V. Anderson, Jr., M.D.
Interim Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT

Request approval to extend the term of the Agreement with the Worker
Education and Resource Center, Inc., for ~~one year~~ 11 months.

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

*To improve health
through leadership,
service and education*

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Interim Director of Health Services, or his designee, to
execute Amendment No. 9 to Agreement No. H-207566 with the Worker
Education and Resource Center, Inc. (WERC) effective upon execution to
extend the term of the Agreement for the period August ~~July~~ 1, 2010
through June 30, 2011 for the continued provision of personnel and
program support services for the Health Care Workforce Development
Program (HCWDP), a collaboration between the Department of Health
Services (DHS) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), with
an ~~annual~~ maximum obligation of \$1,737,092 1,592,334 for the extension
period.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendation will allow the Interim Director or his
designee to execute an Amendment to the Agreement with WERC,
substantially similar to Exhibit I, to continue to provide program services to
the HCWDP. The current Agreement expires July 31 ~~June 30~~, 2010.
WERC is the lead agency in a newly funded regional collaborative, partially
funded through American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), with
other health care safety net providers, the Los Angeles Community College
District, and community based organizations.



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In 2010, HCWDP received ARRA funding to also serve unemployed or dislocated workers, who may want to enter the healthcare industry. WERC created a regional healthcare sector partnership that includes the Los Angeles Community College District, local WorkSource Centers with the LA City Workforce Investment Board, Kaiser Permanente Health Plan, St. John's Well Child and Family Center, North East Valley Clinic, long-term care employers, and community based organizations.

While the HCWDP program was originally developed by DHS and SEIU Local 721 as a labor/management partnership to serve only DHS employees, WERC is currently convening other safety net providers, including public-private partner health clinics, school based clinics, private hospitals and long-term care facilities, to implement workforce models to support an integrated safety net system. The services funded through this WERC Agreement extension ~~only~~ serve County employees and the grant revenue received by WERC is attributed as a match that specifically benefits the County's workforce.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action supports Goal 4, Health and Mental Health, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The maximum obligation of the WERC Agreement for the remaining 11 months of Fiscal Year 2010-11 is \$1,737,092,592,334. Funding is included in the Department's 2010-11 Proposed Adopted Budget. The full cost of the HCWDP, including the Department's salaries and employee benefits and services and supplies and the WERC Agreement, is projected to be \$4.3 million in 2010-11. DHS projects spending \$2.34 million in County funds, matched by \$1.9 million of grant revenues and \$0.1 million for repayment of advance, received by either the County or WERC to offset the costs of the HCWDP program.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On June 11, 2002, your Board approved the initial Agreement with WERC to provide personnel to support the planning, design and implementation of the HCWDP education and training programs for DHS employees as mandated by the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Demonstration Project. WERC was established as a 501(c) 3 non-profit entity by SEIU Local 721 (formerly known as SEIU Local 660) specifically as the vehicle to implement the HCWDP labor/management partnership, linked to the Waiver goals of addressing critical labor shortages, and upgrading worker skills to meet restructuring goals. ~~Funding under this program through December 2008 was 50% State/Federal and 50% County.~~

The HCWDP was initially funded under the Terms and Conditions of the 1115 Waiver Agreement Extension (2000-2005) at \$40 million as a 2:1 match, State and County respectively. The State and County initially identified Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding for the Program, but this funding was no longer available by the end of FY 2003-04. In FYs 2004-05 through 2005-06, the County allocated Tobacco Settlement funds to complete the County match. In FYs 2006-07 and 2007-08, the State allocated a total of \$11.4 million general funds to complete their remaining obligation under the Waiver agreement. The remaining State general funds of \$2.3 million were carried over into FY 2008-09, through December 31, 2008.

~~Since 2002, DHS and WERC jointly continued to focus on training and development of DHS employees through customized educational programs and career path training to address areas of critical staffing shortages in DHS. In addition, WERC assisted DHS in recruiting existing DHS employees to train and fill medical personnel vacancies. WERC also provided program support services for HCWDP, such as consultants for research and support for the Labor Management Training Board (LMTB) and central office space for DHS and WERC employees at 500 South Virgil Avenue, Los Angeles, 90020.~~

~~Subsequently, your Board approved five amendments to the WERC Agreement for funding and extensions through June 30, 2009. With your Board's approval of Amendment No. 6, on January 13, 2009, Tobacco Settlement Funds, in the amount of \$2.8 million were used authorized to continue WERC's efforts through June 30, 2009. On June 16, 2009, your Board approved a six month extension through December 31, 2009 with delegated authority to extend an additional six month period subject to identification and receipt of sufficient grant funding.~~

~~On December 31, 2009, the Interim Director advised your Board that sufficient savings had been achieved in grant funding that carried over from grants previously received so that the net County cost for the program for the entire Fiscal Year 2009-10 would not be exceeded. Your Board most recently approved a one month extension through July 31, 2010.~~

WERC has obtained grant funding for FY 2010-11 totaling \$1.9 million dollars that will benefit HCWDP. These grants include ARRA funding from the Los Angeles City Workforce Investment Board to operate a health care sector high growth initiative, and a US Department of Labor grant to train environmental service workers at two County hospitals on green techniques. In addition, WERC has funding through a local Los Angeles Workforce Funding Collaborative which includes United Way, the S. Mark Taper Foundation, and Kaiser Community Benefits funds. WERC obtained Office of Statewide Health Planning Development grants for the County's College of Nursing to expand capacity to provide support, coaching, tutoring and licensure exam preparation for DHS employees enrolled in the Registered Nurse program.

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WERC is tracking grants that are currently being released from the US Dept of Health and Human Services in preparation for changes mandated under the Affordable Care Act. WERC will be partnering with community colleges and local workforce investment boards on a current solicitation for \$5 million over five years to prepare low income individuals with education and training for healthcare occupations.

As a result of the training efforts by DHS and WERC, over 9,300 participants received instruction, which produced over 400 450 new Registered Nurses, and over 400 allied health workers including health information technologists, phlebotomists, licensed vocational nurses, psychiatric technicians and patient financial services workers. In addition, thousands have participated in skills upgrade programs linked to improving the delivery of service.

County Counsel has approved Exhibit I as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the amendment ensures that training of current DHS employees, other partnering health care provider employees, and community residents continues in order to fill areas of critical need in the safety net delivery system.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

JFS:sd

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors